

Los Angeles County Department of *Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures*

:: News Bulletin ::

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 25, 2003

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‘TIS THE SEASON OF GOOD WILL TO ALL (BUT CHECK YOUR RECEIPTS ANYWAY, URGES COUNTY SEALER)

ALSO: LISTING OF 32 COMPLETED SCANNER OVERCHARGE CASES

As people prepare for the holidays, Los Angeles County Sealer of Weights and Measures, Cato R. Fiksdal, reminds shoppers to be alert to overcharges at the checkstand. "Stores are crowded, and schedules are hectic, but shoppers need to take time at the cash register to make sure they were charged correctly for their purchases," said Mr. Fiksdal. "The County *Buyer Beware Program* has been in effect for well over a year, and stores are getting the message not to charge more than their posted or advertised price, but shoppers still need to be on guard," he continued.

Problems shoppers may face include the following:

- ! Newly hired, seasonal staff that may not be familiar with which items are on sale. In addition, new employees may not be aware of refund policies when overcharges occur.
- ! Incorrectly calculated discounts. Stores use percent discount sales to move merchandise. Don't assume the clerk or the scanner will calculate the discount correctly. Some merchandise is aggressively discounted, and the new discounts don't make their way into the store computer.
- ! Misplaced items. Don't assume that the price displayed on the counter, or shelf, is the price that will be charged. Merchandise, especially at sale counters, is often moved from one display, and dropped off at another, when shoppers find a better buy. Confirm the price with store personnel by having the item scanned before purchasing it.
- ! The number of promotional items in stores increases dramatically. Not all of these promotions make their way into the store electronic checkout system. Shoppers need to pay special attention as these items are scanned at the checkstand.

Mr. Fiksdal reminded shoppers to "Relax, and enjoy this wonderful time of the year, but check that receipt."

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1. **A.C. Vroman, Inc. and Schmidt Store #3, 3729 Foothill Blvd., Pasadena**

Dates of offense: 7/25/02, 7/31/02 and 8/14/02

Charges: Three counts of scanner overcharges (\$24.75).

Convictions: Pled nolo contendere to three counts

Fines and fees: \$1,208.00

Case #3PA01720

2. **Arco Am/pm #1008, 1210 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance**

Date of offense: 3/11/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less.

File #03/04-PV019

3. **Barnes & Noble #2715, 731 N. San Fernando Blvd., Burbank**

Date of offense: 10/102/02

Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$4.04).

Convictions: One count pled nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1,291.00

Case #3JM02835

4. **Bath & Body Works #780, 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia**

Date of offense: 12/30/02

Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (6.00)

Convictions: One count pled nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$270.00

Case #3SA01679

5. **Big Lots #4002, 920 E. Firestone Blvd., Downey**

Date of offense: 8/21/02

Charges: Six counts of scanner overcharge (\$20.50)

Convictions: One count, pled nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$1,416.00

Case #3DW03293

6. **General Discount Store, 144 E. Compton Blvd., Compton**

Date of offense: 5/23/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less.

File #03/04-PV042

7. **Grant's True Value Hardware, 10944 E. Garvey Avenue, El Monte**

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Date of offense: 5/08/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less.

File #03/04-PV041

8. **Home Depot #608, 10930 Alondra Blvd., Cerritos**

Date of offense: 10/30/02

Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$5.97)

Convictions: One count, pled nolo contendere

Case #3LC01461

9. **Jinon Corporation and Arita (Nijiya Market) 2121 W. 182nd Street, Torrance**

Date of offense: 9/9/02

Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$10.59)

Convictions: One count, pled nolo contendere

Fines and fees: \$3,727.12

Case #3LC01135

10. **Kay Bee Toy & Hobby Shop #1713, 118 Los Cerritos Center, Cerritos**

Date of offense: 10/14/02

Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$2.50)

Convictions: One count, pled nolo contendere

Fine and fees: \$1,133.82

Case #3LC01462

11. **Katie's Pet Depot, 11137 National Blvd., Los Angeles**

Date of offense: 06/26/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less

File #03/04-PV060

12. **Long Drugs #71, 727 S. Glendora Avenue, West Covina**

Date of offense: 03/05/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less

File #02/03-SP099

13. **Los Altos Ace Hardware #8595, 6441 E. Spring Street, Long Beach**

Date of offense: 06/25/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less.

File #03/04-PV051

14. **Macy's West, Inc. (Burbank), 200 E. Cypress, Burbank**

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Date of offense: 09/17/02
Charges: Four counts of scanner overcharge (\$11.97)
Convictions: One count, pled nolo contendere
Fines and fees: \$3,180.00
Case #3BU1804

15. **Michael's #3004, 18131 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana**

Date of offense: 06/03/03
Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less.
File #03/04-PV033

16. **Party City #573, 3353 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena**

Date of offense: 08/07/02
Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$3.74)
Convictions: One count, pled nolo contendere
Fines and fees: \$1,363.82
Case #3PA01725

17. **Ralphs #166, 2700 Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach**

Date of offense: 08/16/03
Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less.
File # 03/04-PV055

18. **Rite Aid #5609, 9450 Las Tunas Drive, Temple City**

Date of offense: 5/28/03
Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less
File #03/04-PV031

19. **Sam's Club #6617, 1399 W. Artesia Blvd., Gardena**

Date of offense: 05/05/03
Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less.
File #03/04-PV036

20. **Sav-On Drug #9609, 9920 Garvey Avenue, El Monte**

Date of offense: 10/30/02
Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$4.99)
Convictions: Pled nolo contendere to one count

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Fines and fees: \$355.00

Case #3RH02627

21. **Sears, Roebuck and Co., Store #1838, 111 E. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank**

Date of offense: 09/12/02

Charges: Two counts of scanner overcharges (\$2.00)

Convictions: Pled nolo contendere to one count

Fines and fees: \$1,857.21

Case #3BU01805

22. **Staples #164, 4600 Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach**

Date of offense: 04/02/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less

File #03/04-PV0021

23. **Suncoast Motion Picture (Store#3234), 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia**

Date of offense: 12/31/02

Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$7.00)

Convictions: Pled nolo contendere to one count

Fines and fees: \$782.12

Case #3SA01682

24. **Suncoast Motion Picture (Store #3299), 201 E. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank**

Date of offense: 9/25/02

Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$7.92)

Convictions: Pled nolo contendere to one count

Fines and fees: \$1,803.81

Case #3BU01803

25. **The Gap #258, 201 E. Magnolia Avenue, Burbank**

Date of offense: 10/16/02

Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$32.01)

Convictions: Pled nolo contendere to one count

Fines and fees: \$1,263.82

Case #3BU01806

26. **The Musicland Group (Sam Goody #842), 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia**

Date of offense: 12/01/02

Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$4.00)

Convictions: Pled nolo contendere to one count

Fines and fees: \$852.12

Case #3SA01675

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27. **The Pep Boys #665, 11944 South Street, Artesia**

Date of offense: 11/13/02

Charges: One count of scanner overcharge (\$2.99)

Convictions: Pled nolo contendere to one count

Fines and fees: \$1,332.12

Case #3LC01899

28. **Trader Joe's #50, 6600 Topanga Cyn Blvd., Canoga Park**

Date of offense: 06/24/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less.

File #03/04-PV049

29. **Tully's Coffee, 533 W. 6th Street, Los Angeles**

Date of offense: 6/13/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less

File #03/04-PV029

30. **Vallarta Supermarket, 21208 Sherman Way, Canoga Park**

Date of offense: 06/18/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less

File #303/04-PV045

31. **W. H. Smith #74, 930 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles**

Date of offense: 4/17/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less.

File #03/04-PV012

32. **World Foot Locker, 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia**

Date of offense: 1/16/03

Convictions: Assessed a \$100.00 civil administrative fine on one count of scanner overcharge of \$1.00 or less

File #02/03-SP103

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